REMARKS:

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-31 were rejected.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 7-9, 12-24 and 28 have been amended, and claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 26, 27, 30 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12-25, 28 and 29 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is being presented and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF THE SPECIFICATION

The Specification starting at page 45, line 25 through page 46, line 7 is herein amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the Specification is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5-10, 12-19, 24, and 26-31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FUCHIGAMI et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Fuchigami et al. discusses a look-up table constructing method using a conversion matrix parameter that is provided for divided areas of a color space. The look-up table indicates a correspondence relationship between lattice points in one color space to lattice points in another space by referring to a color division database to determine which divided area the lattice points of the color space belongs (see, col. 7, lines 19-29). However, Fuchigami et al. indicates that in a situation where the database stores no more sets of conversion data pieces, a signal (a first, second or third color space division finish signal) indicating that the first, second or third color space division has been finished is sent to the second color space dividing section, the third color space dividing section or the parameter calculating section located downstream (see, col. 9, lines 18-26, col. 11, lines 19-26).

In contrast, independent claims 1, 24 and 28 recite that the present invention includes "determining a color transformation result is correct when said color transformation result, into which one color signal in said transformation source color space is transformed through a color transformation formula when said relationship is created, belongs to a region corresponding to said color transformation formula". This enables the present invention to create a color

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transformation table based on a color transformation result determined to be correct so that the relationship between color signals in a transformation source color space and a transformation target color space is accurately calculated.

For example, accuracy of color transformation through a color transformation formula obtained from each divided region of a color space is low when the color transformation is performed on a color signal outside a region of its own. Accordingly, the present invention discriminates a color transformation result having low accuracy from a color transformation result having high accuracy such that a color transformation result having higher accuracy can be obtained.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 24 and 28 are patentably distinguishable over Fuchigami et al.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12-19, 26-27 and 29 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claims 1, 24 and 28 and the reasons set forth above. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, 12-19, 22 and 23 recite that the present invention obtains "a color transformation result" having the highest reliability among a plurality of transformation results based on "distances" between the transformation results and the "boundaries" of the divided regions. As such, it possible to obtain a transformation result having much higher reliability when it is combined with the determination operation executed by the present invention.

However, Fuchigami et al. adopts a weighted means of all transformation results (see, col. 3, lines 6-19 and col. 12, lines 44-65).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12-19, 24, and 26-31 is overcome.

III.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 4, 11, 20-23, 25, 28-29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS

BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER FUCHIGAMI ET AL. IN VIEW OF ROLLESTON

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner acknowledges that Fuchigami et al. does not disclose a colorimeter, or spectral reference associated with a colorimeter, thus relies on Rolleston as teaching the same. Rolleston discusses measuring colorimetric response at each sample to derive a mapping of printer signals to colorimetric responses of a printer. In Rolleston, color signals are directed to an interpolation device, which includes a three dimensional lookup table stored in a device

memory, and the color signals are processed to generate address entries to the table which stores a set of transform coefficients (see, col. 6, lines 7-19).

The combination of <u>Fuchigami et al.</u> and <u>Rolleston</u> does not teach or suggest, "determining that a color transformation result is correct" when a color transformation result obtained by transforming one color signal in a transformation source color space through a color transformation formula belongs to a region corresponding to the color transformation formula, and creating "a color transformation table" based on the color transformation result determined to be correct.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4, 11, 20-23, 25, 28-29 are patentably distinguishable over the combination of <u>Fuchigami et al.</u> and <u>Rolleston</u>.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
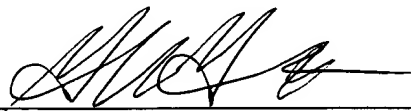
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _F/r- /6, 2005_   By: _____

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